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Calendar No. 1960

85TH CONGRESS 2d Session

SENATE

REPORT No. 1925

CREATING A STANDING COMMITTEE ON AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE SCIENCES

July 23, 1958.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HAYDEN, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 327]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to whom was referred the resolution (S. Res. 327), to create a standing Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to by the Senate.

PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution 327 provides for the establishment of a new standing legislative committee of the Senate to be known as the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences. The committee is to consist of 15 members. Its jurisdiction will be over matters relating to the newly created Aeronautical and Space Administration, nonmilitary aeronautical and space activities, and the scientific aspects of aeronautical and space activities.

Rarely in history has an area developed with such rapidity to a status of tremendous importance as has the field of aeronautical and space sciences in recent months. The successful launching of artificial earth satellites has initiated for mankind a really new and challenging endeavor, the ultimate significance and extent of which can be seen only dimly and not adequately assessed at this time. Many considerations make it mandatory that the United States proceed immediately to intensify its efforts lest we fall hopelessly behind in space

With complete bipartisan support, both Houses of Congress have now passed legislation (H. R. 12575, H. Rept. 2166) to establish a new executive agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Under the policy guidance of the President, assisted by an advisory National Aeronautics and Space Council, the new Administration 20008

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will be able to carry out a comprehensive, unified, coordinated program

for the exploration and development of outer space.

When H. R. 12575 passed the Senate it contained a provision for a Joint Committee on Aeronautics and Space. The House, however, expressed a preference for a separate standing committee. In the conference committee the Senate conferees acceded to the desires of the House conferees, and provisions for a joint committee were deleted from the conference report. Subsequently, on July 21, 1958, by its approval of House Resolution 580, the House amended its rules to provide for a standing Committee on Science and Astronautics.

This action, and the character and importance of aeronautical and space activities, require the Senate to establish its own standing committee. Only in this way can the Senate insure that it will handle future aeronautical and space legislation in a comprehensive and expeditious manner, and also keep a vigilant oversight over rapidly

expanding aeronautical and space developments.

The resolution gives to the new committee jurisdiction over matters pertaining to aeronautical and space activities "except those which are peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems or military operations." These military aspects are added to the jurisdiction of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The new committee would have the authority, however, to "survey and review, and to prepare studies and reports" on aeronautical and space activities of all agencies, including the military. The new committee would also have specific jurisdiction over matters relating to the new National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce retains jurisdiction over "civil aeronautics" but from this term is now excepted aeronautical and space activities conducted or directed by the new

National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The remaining provisions of the resolution make necessary technical changes in the Standing Rules of the Senate, as follows: (1) Provides that three members of the new committee shall be ex officio members of the Committee on Appropriations when annual appropriations for aeronautical and space activities (except military) are being considered; (2) adds the new committee to the list of committees which can be used for third committee assignments and increases the total number of such allowed assignments to 36 (24 for the majority party and 12 for the minority party); (3) provides for proportional changes in the number of majority and minority party third committee assignments should the majority and minority totals change during the 85th Congress; and (4) provides that, unless otherwise determined, beginning with the 86th Congress, 22 Senators of the majority party and 10 Senators of the minority party may serve on 3 committees.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

On page 1, line 10, immediately after "Aeronautical and space activities," insert the following: "as that term is defined in the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958,".

On page 2, line 2, immediately after "of" insert "such".

On page 3, line 2, immediately after the words "space activities" insert the words "of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration".

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On page 4, line 5, strike out the word "Effective" and insert in lieu thereof the following: "Unless otherwise determined, effective".

EXPLANATION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The substantive committee amendments have been made to draw more clearly the distinction between the subject jurisdictions of the new Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences and the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The amendment on page 4, line 5, was adopted solely to avoid any possible involvement in the issue of the Senate's status as a continuing body.

As used throughout the resolution, the term "aeronautical and space activities" has the same meaning as when used in the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958. Section 103 of that act provides that such term means—

(A) research into, and the solution of, problems of flight within and outside the earth's atmosphere, (B) the development, construction, testing, and operation for research purposes of aeronautical and space vehicles, and (C) such other activities as may be required for the exploration of space.

By the committee amendment to subsection 1 (a) of the resolution the term "aeronautical and space activities," when used to describe the jurisdiction of the new Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, has been expressly stated to have the meaning given thereto by such act. Explicit reference to the definition contained in the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 has been made in this one instance to make it abundantly plain that is is not intention of the resolution to qualify or impair the jurisdiction of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce except with respect to any activities which are the responsibility of the new Aeronautics and Space Administration.